



South Dakota

Department of Veterans Affairs
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Secretary Larry Zimmerman

Larry D. Zimmerman became the first Secretary of the SD Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary effective January 9, 2013.

As the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Zimmerman will serve over seventy thousand veterans within the borders of South Dakota. Zimmerman plans a new vision and mission statement to kick things off with his department. The focus will be his vision statement of "Voices for Veterans."

Zimmerman will spend the majority of his time visiting veterans, veteran service organizations and working with legislative issues for their causes.

Secretary Zimmerman attended high school in Belle Fourche, SD his hometown. He graduated from Ashford University in Clinton, IA, with a Bachelors degree in Business and Organizational Management. His military education includes many schools including the Sergeants Major Academy.

Prior to being selected as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in South Dakota he served as the State Command Sergeant Major, he also served as Postmaster in Spearfish, Pierre and Sturgis. His career in the U.S. Postal Service spanned 35 years and he held many positions in western South Dakota. Secretary Zimmerman retired from the Post Office on February 1, 2009.

Zimmerman served 29 years in the South Dakota National Guard retiring in January of 2013.

He completed a tour in Afghanistan (OEF) as the Operations SGM for the nine Northern provinces in that country, and before that was the CSM in both the 109th RSG in Rapid City, SD and the 109th En Bn in Sturgis along with numerous other positions within the Army Guard. Zimmerman was Active Duty Army from 1973-1976 in the 4th Infantry Division at Ft Carson, CO.

Secretary Zimmerman is married to Dyann and they have three daughters, Misty, Crisha, and Lanna and five grandchildren.

DECORATIONS AND AWARDS:

Legion of Merit

Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/star,

Army Commendation Medal w/1 OLC, Army Achievement Medal w/ 1 OLC

Army Good Conduct Medal, Reserve Component Achievement Medal 5th Award

National Defense 3rd Award, Non Art 5 NATO ISAF Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon w/4

Army Service Ribbon

Overseas Service Ribbon

Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/ M device and 20 Year

SD Distinguished Service Award

SD Recruiting Ribbon

SD Service Medal

SD Desert Storm Ribbon

Voices for Veterans

To advocate for and provide the pathway for all veterans and their families to receive their benefits due them.